

Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony

March 2, 2010

Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Paul Young and I am the Executive Director of the Division of Special Revenue. The Division would like to take this opportunity to provide testimony on H.B. No. 5343 'An Act Authorizing Keno'.

The Division position is that this legislation is not necessary as Keno is a form of Lottery and the Connecticut Lottery Corporation currently has the authority to introduce new lottery games under Section 12-806 (b) (4).

Additionally, I would point out that the Division has already approved Keno to be played in Connecticut as a lottery game, twice. Both Tribal Casinos sought our approval to play Keno as a lottery game in the 1990's and correspondence between the Division and Tribes exist including letters of approval to operate a lottery game called Keno. Both Tribes operate the lottery game called Keno and have made submissions to us over the years under Section 9 of the Compacts, which is the lottery section.

Should the Connecticut Lottery Corporation submit working papers on a new lottery game called Keno, and if the working papers were similar to the game we have twice approved we believe existing Connecticut law allows us to approve it. I would further point out that the Division of Special Revenue has allowed the Connecticut Lottery Corporation to introduce new games several times over the years, all under the authority of Section 12-806 (b) (4). We believe their authority is clear and our authority is clear, and not in conflict with Statutes, Compacts, or MOUs.

We further believe the passage of this bill confuses, if not conflicts with, existing statutory language. Currently, Section 12-806 calls upon the Connecticut Lottery Corporation to be "entrepreneurial", "to introduce new lottery games", and "modify existing games". This bill outlines a specific type of lottery game with specific rules on how it is to be played with no room to "modify". Therefore, it would appear that future games and modifications to existing games would need legislative approval. That would weaken, if not nullify, Sections 12-806 (a)(1) and (b)(4).

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.